GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:244
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
LEUKAEMIA TREATMENT
SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a break-through in Leukaemia treatment with a silver based Ayurvedic compound was achieved over two years back;

(b) if so, the details of the result of further studies made in this treatment and its evaluation, under the aegis of the Central Council for Research for Ayurveda and Siddha;

(c) whether the treatment has since been recommended for general treatment of Leukaemia patients in hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 244 FOR 20.3.2002

The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare engaged in conducting research in Ayurveda and Siddha, had sanctioned a Research Project to evaluate the `Effect of Metal based Ayurvedic formulations on Acute Pro-myelocytic Leukemia (APML)` in October, 1997. In a clinical study conducted on 15 patients of APML, 4 patients died. It has been reported that out of 11 patients who completed 90 days treatment, all were found free from leukemia on the assessment of the bone marrow and 10 out of 11 patients were stated to be alive. However, the complete report was not received from the principal investigator and the formulation was under preliminary clinical trial, due to possible toxic effect of metallic formulations.

A Drug Development Committee was constituted on 23.01.2001 by the Council comprising Ayurvedic experts and modern pharmacologists to oversee the development of the drug used in the treatment of APML cases. It was observed that various requirements, which are essential under scientific guidelines for development of new drugs, are yet to be fulfilled in order to standardise the formulation as a drug. These guidelines also need to be followed strictly as the formulation uses various metals and minerals as ingredients, which may have toxic effect.

The Principal Investigator has now been advised to submit time schedule for various actions to be taken for drug development including preparation of a monograph incorporating all the details of the preparation of drugs - `Navjivan`. They have also been advised to identify a Laboratory which can undertake an in vitro study of the mode of action and make arrangement for the treatment of effluent etc., of the drug.